

Affordable Housing Coalition

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: See July sign in sheet

- 1. Introductions/Announcements:** Introductions took place
- 2. Approvals of April Minutes/Additions to May Agenda:** Agenda additions include: Seaway update, flood impact, Housing Access/LSS Fair housing, CoC interim regulations released.
- 3. Treasurer's Report** – Carol reported as of a July balance of \$1,441.90
- 4. County Discussion Items:**
 - *OEO July Shelter Count* – Laura reminded all shelters that OEO will be conducting a 2012 July PIT sheltered count. In 2011, a July unsheltered count was conducted in conjunction with the sheltered count. However, due to the 2012 Wilder survey in October, SLC will not conduct an unsheltered count. Individual agencies were encouraged to conduct counts if they would like for individual organization/agency planning purposes.
 - *The 2012 Project Homeless Connect* event will be held on October 25, 2012 in conjunction with the 2012 Wilder study survey. In Duluth, the event will take place at the Washington Center, Youth connect at Life House. On the Iron Range, the event will take place at the Miner's building in Virginia. Additional volunteers will be needed to complete surveys throughout that day at various locations throughout the county. The first 2012 Duluth planning committee will meet at 12:00 today, following the AHC meeting, at the Central Hillside Community Center.
 - *Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance* program is in the process of completing their Annual Report. Planning is starting to take place for the 2013/14 biennium.
 - *CoC Interim Regulations* were released on Monday of this week. Laura will send the Introductory Guide to Continuum of Care (CoC) provider agencies and the CoC program requirements under the Interim Rule to AHC members for further details.
 - *Seaway Hotel:* On July 13th, a meeting was held at the Duluth HRA to plan and begin implementing crisis response activities to help residents that could potentially be displaced if the building is closed. Meeting Agenda items included:
 1. It is unknown whether or not the owner will appeal the condemnation notice by the City of Duluth. There are potential loan funds that have been available for 3+ years to fix damages to the building; however, the owner has not accessed those funds. Meeting attendees expressed interest in staying current with any nuances related to the apartment's potentially remaining open.

2. There is a group of funders and housing providers that are working to create a coordinated community response to assist those interested in finding alternate housing, should the Seaway close. A needs assessment has been developed to collect pertinent information from current residents about their situation and their needs. Next steps will include convening County Financial Workers, Salvation Army, CHUM, MACV and Legal Aid staff , and a list of available housing on site at the Seaway to provide direct assistance to those in need. The goal is to bring all available resources and housing directly to the residents, rather than waiting for residents to travel around the community in search of them. The next planning meeting will take place on Friday, July 20th, from 10:00-12:00 at the Duluth HRA.

5. City Discussion Items:

- Karen distributed the results from the *Community Forums* held by the Community Development Division in May 2012. She also passed out a copy of the funding targets that the CD Community set for the FY 2013 Funding Targets. The CD Committee followed the funding recommendations of the AHC in regard to Public Service category.
- Karen also announced that the CD offices will hold *two Technical Assistance* sessions; one on July 25th from 10:30-12:00 pm (room 303, City Hall) and one on July 26th from 1:30 –3:00 pm (room 303, City Hall). New applicants or projects applying for more than 10% of their current allocation will need to complete a pre-application. All applications are due electronically to the City of Duluth CD by September 6, 2012.
- Char announced that the City and County have jointly put out an *RFP* for eligible applicants to apply for funding under the *Emergency Solution Grant Program*. The application and instructions are posted on both the city and county websites. The Heading Home St. Louis County Leadership Council process will be used for final funding recommendations in line with the Continuum of Care.
- *Flood update*: The Granters' Alliance is a collaborative multi-county group that aligns and coordinates resources as needed for various funding gaps in the region. This group has convened twice in the past few weeks to discuss flood relief coordination. This group will fill in gaps following all federal and state disaster relief efforts. They are currently working on a communication plan when further information is available on the time-line and relief disbursements. There is preliminary discussion to fund a long range recovery committee ~ more information will be updated when available. There are relief funds/grants for non-profits in our region who have experienced flood damages not covered by FEMA or other state & federal resources in the amount of \$5,000.00 from a few local foundations.
- In Duluth, there were 875 reported homes, 591 have been assessed. Of those, 216 had minor damages, 151 are uninhabitable (condemned), 12 are "enter at own risk", and 7 are a total loss.

- Carlton County reported 4800 homes damaged.
- A motion was made by Scott Yeazole to give the United Way a financial gift of \$200.00 for the flood relief. Pam Kramer seconded the motion – all in favor, none opposed – motion passes.
- 6. Heading Home SLC Leadership Council:** Staff updated AHC members regarding Leadership Council local community site visits in Duluth and on the Iron Range over the next few months. Leadership Council members will be integral in final recommendations for CoC and FHAPAP funding allocations. Lynn/AHC representative talked about Conflict of Interest policies of the Leadership Council members as well as the By Laws.
- 7. NLIHC Letter** – Jeff updated group regarding “Foreclosure” action. Interested AHC members can send letters to Congressmen Ellison. Further details/information will be sent to AHC members to take action if able.
- 8. AHC Calendar** - The annual AHC calendar will be distributed to AHC members in August.
- 9. Fair Housing** update: AHC members were asked to discuss organization regarding how to better serve landlord/tenant barriers following the closure of the Housing Access Center in Duluth. Dan Williams is interested in exploring the needs related to the community gap. City staff has been meeting to explore the current gap due to the Fair housing mandate. A group will be convened by City staff to determine next steps to working on the gap in a coordinated effort. Interested members include: Elise Strauder, Lynn Barbe, Pam Benson, Char McLennan, Laura DeRosier & others. City staff will schedule a meeting prior to August meeting.
- 10. Revisit AHC Vision/Mission/Goals:** AHC Bylaws – The initial group that met to outline the Bylaws will re-convene to finalize & update all sections in the AHC bylaws prior to the August meeting. Updated Bylaws will be sent out to AHC members 1 week prior to the meeting and accepted at the August meeting.
- 11. AHC Elections** – The 2012 slate of officers was sent to AHC members prior to the meeting. Positions follow: Chair – Martin Lepak, Vice-Chair – Sarah Priest, Treasurer/Secretary – Carol Schultz. A motion was made to approve the slate by Kim Crawford, seconded by Rick Ball – all in favor, none opposed – motion passed.
- 12. AHC Agency Presentations:**
 - Lynne Barbe/Legal Aid Services in Duluth gave a ten-minute presentation regarding legal services provided by Legal Aid. An electronic outline will be sent to AHC members by Lynn.
 - Steve Saari/MAC V Duluth gave a ten-minute presentation regarding housing/services available for veterans in St. Louis County & out-lying counties by MAC V. Posters for the Veteran Stand down were distributed. Save the date: August , at the Depot in Duluth.

13. Committee Meeting Summary

- Homeless Response committee – This group met to continue discussing the homeless system in the City of Duluth. Various entry points and turn away collection methods were disbursed to committee members. The next meeting will take place on July 31st, from 8:30-10:00 at the Hillside Community Center.

July/August Committee meetings

- Homeless Response Committee meetings: July 31st (8:30-10 at Hillside Community Center) and August 21st (8:30-10 at Hillside Community Center)
- By-Laws Committee will meet prior to the August meeting –staff will schedule
- Fair housing—City staff will follow up on fair housing issues—possibly convene a meeting of interested parties.

The next AHC meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 10:00 am at One Roof, now located at Central Community Center at 12 E 4th Street in Duluth.

The Homeless Response Committee will meet on July 31st, from 8:30-10:00 at One Roof's lower mezzanine room. This committee will also meet on August 21st, from 8:30-10:00 at One Roof's main floor meeting room prior to the AHC meeting.

14. AHC Mission/Vision committeeCommittee meeting updates: Meeting will be held at Central Community Center. Will be held Tuesday June 10, 2012. This location to start in June 2012.

15. June Committee Meetings:

The next AHC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 10:am – 12:00 pm at the Central Community Center.